

RECEIVED

92-254

RECEIVED  
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
JAN 28 1993

JAN 17 1993 RECEIVED

FCC - MAIL ROOM NOV 17 1992

FCC MAIL ROOM

MAIL BRANCH

92110635

**COMMENTS ON FCC RULING OF ABORTION  
ANNOUNCEMENT NOT ALLOWED TO AIR**

**POLITICAL SEASON 1992-PLEASE DISTRIBUTE  
TO ALL COMMISSIONERS**

RECEIVED

JAN 26 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Thank You.*  
*Barbara Gritsch*

No. of Copies rec'd  
List A B C D E

*0*

NOV 18 11 04 AM '92  
HMB ENH  
COMM  
INVEST

RECEIVED

## FCC Seeks Comment On Abortion Spot

In a proceeding that combines two hot broadcast regulation issues — political ads and indecency — the FCC is seeking public comment on whether licensees should have the right to channel “indecent” or “offensive” political ads to off hours.

The issue has proven thorny, pitting the candidates' right to reasonable airwaves access and freedom from censorship against broadcasters' concerns about indecent or offensive material.

The proceeding was spawned by a spate of graphic anti-abortion TV spots aired during the recent campaign by a handful of conservative congressional candidates.

### Channeling Ads

In August, the Commission staff ruled broadcasters must air political spots in their requested slots regardless of content. But four days before the election, the agency reversed itself and said licensees may limit a political ad to the 8pm-6am “safe harbor” if they “reasonably and in good faith” believe the spot is indecent. The Commission issued its call for public comments on the same day that decision was released.

That ruling was prompted by a Georgia congressional candidate's complaint after **WAGA-TV/Atlanta**

refused to air his 30-minute anti-abortion spot. The program featured scenes of aborted fetuses and women undergoing abortions.

Among the topics the agency wants addressed are the extent to which broadcasters should be allowed to channel political ads into off hours and whether they should be allowed to do the same with non-indecent material deemed potentially harmful to children. (An example of harmful material might include graphic footage of an execution in a candidate's anti-capital punishment spot.)

### 'Return To Balance'

Irv Gastfreund, representing a group of broadcasters seeking the right to channel indecent ads, hopes the proceeding will result in increased discretion for broadcasters.

“Candidates have a right to get on their soapbox,” said Gastfreund. “But they don't have a right to seize broadcasters' facilities. There has to be a return to balance.”

November 13, 1992

Commissioners  
FCC  
1919 M. St. N.W.  
Washington DC 20054

Commissioners:

As a Broadcaster and a private citizen I would like to comment on the recent ruling by the FCC on an abortion announcement.

I am ashamed that people in power would not feel that this announcement was worthy of broadcasting. After all, Abortion is Murder and I feel the people of America should see in GRAPHIC COLOR what the abortion clinics and women are guilty of.

You let the MOST GRAPHIC SEX AND MURDER SHOWS run on TV in the middle of the day, when small children are home. NO WONDER THE MORALS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE GOING DOWN THE TUBES. How can you justify all of the garbage you allow without blinking an eye and then not show something that should be shown. Do you know what indecency is. It sure does not seem that you do. Abortion is Murder. Are your morals gone as well.

I am a mother of 3 beautiful adopted children and grandmother of 5, and I am ashamed of you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Gretsich".

Barbara Gretsich  
Box 358  
Albany, Minnesota 56307

FCC MAIL SECTION

Nov 17 2 33 PM '92

DISPATCHED BY

## FCC Seeks Comment On Abortion Spot

In a proceeding that combines two hot broadcast regulation issues — political ads and indecency — the FCC is seeking public comment on whether licensees should have the right to channel “indecent” or “offensive” political ads to off hours.

The issue has proven thorny, pitting the candidates' right to reasonable airwaves access and freedom from censorship against broadcasters' concerns about indecent or offensive material.

The proceeding was spawned by a spate of graphic anti-abortion TV spots aired during the recent campaign by a handful of conservative congressional candidates.

### Channeling Ads

In August, the Commission staff ruled broadcasters must air political spots in their requested slots regardless of content. But four days before the election, the agency reversed itself and said licensees may limit a political ad to the 8pm-6am “safe harbor” if they “reasonably and in good faith” believe the spot is indecent. The Commission issued its call for public comments on the same day that decision was released.

That ruling was prompted by a Georgia congressional candidate's complaint after **WAGA-TV/Atlanta**

refused to air his 30-minute anti-abortion spot. The program featured scenes of aborted fetuses and women undergoing abortions.

Among the topics the agency wants addressed are the extent to which broadcasters should be allowed to channel political ads into off hours and whether they should be allowed to do the same with non-indecent material deemed potentially harmful to children. (An example of harmful material might include graphic footage of an execution in a candidate's anti-capital punishment spot.)

### 'Return To Balance'

Irv Gastfreund, representing a group of broadcasters seeking the right to channel indecent ads, hopes the proceeding will result in increased discretion for broadcasters.

“Candidates have a right to get on their soapbox,” said Gastfreund. “But they don't have a right to seize broadcasters' facilities. There has to be a return to balance.”

**COMMENTS ON FCC RULING OF ABORTION  
ANNOUNCEMENT NOT ALLOWED TO AIR**

**POLITICAL SEASON 1992-PLEASE DISTRIBUTE  
TO ALL COMMISSIONERS**

November 13, 1992

Commissioners  
FCC  
1919 M. St. N.W.  
Washington DC 20054

Commissioners:

As a Broadcaster and a private citizen I would like to comment on the recent ruling by the FCC on an abortion announcement.

I am ashamed that people in power would not feel that this announcement was worthy of broadcasting. After all, Abortion is Murder and I feel the people of America should see in GRAPHIC COLOR what the abortion clinics and women are guilty of.

You let the MOST GRAPHIC SEX AND MURDER SHOWS run on TV in the middle of the day, when small children are home. NO WONDER THE MORALS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE GOING DOWN THE TUBES. How can you justify all of the garbage you allow without blinking an eye and then not show something that should be shown. Do you know what indecency is. It sure does not seem that you do. Abortion is Murder. Are your morals gone as well.

I am a mother of 3 beautiful adopted children and grandmother of 5, and I am ashamed of you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Gretsch".

Barbara Gretsch  
Box 358  
Albany, Minnesota 56307